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REVIEWS.

A HISTORY OF TEXAS.

TEXAS: A CONTEST OF CIVILIZATIONS. By George P. Garrison. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1903. (American Commonwealths.)

The sub-title, "A Contest of Civilizations," well denotes the scope and character of the work. It is a story of colonial Texas in its world setting. We may almost say, indeed, that with true Texan expansiveness the author has given us a sketch of the history of the world since 1492 as focusing upon the colony of Texas. An outline of the history of Texas since the achievement of independence fills the last ninety pages of the volume, but forms no essential part of it. The author's spontaneous work is devoted altogether to the strife of nationalities in the colonial wilderness. Badly handled figures of speech, which render the diction quite faulty, are sprinkled throughout the pages; but the handling of the material is excellent, and the arrangement in the large would be hard to improve upon. In a word, Prof. Garrison has written a quite valuable monograph upon the international struggle for Texas, has added to it a sketch of the later history, and has somewhat unsuccessfully cast the whole into a popular form. The treatment of the Spanish settlement and administrative system is thoroughly good. The several types of settlement, the mission, the presidio, and the pueblo, are given critical study. There are good chapters upon "The Failure of the Spanish Way," "Mexico at the Wheel," and "Austin's Colony." The handling of military affairs is less happy. The border skirmishes were intricate in their immediate causes and in their strategy. The question arises whether it is worth while to bother one's brain over them at the sacrifice of attention to the economic and social development in the American period. We could wish that the author would tell something of the origin of the immigrants from the United States, and their various actuating motives. What use did the settler make of the square mile

or more of land which was assigned him? Was Texas in the early American period more distinctively Southern or Western in its institutions and atmosphere? A study of the physical conditions, of the origin and inheritance of the people, of the changes wrought by slavery, and of the social development would be a fine contribution to the internal history of the United States. We may hope that Prof. Garrison or some other well-equipped Texan will turn his hand to the work. Meanwhile we can only thank the author for his contribution to the institutional and political history of colonial Texas.

ULRICH B. PHILLIPS.

THE STRUGGLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MEXICO. FROM EMPIRE TO REPUBLIC. The Story of the Struggle for Constitutional Government in Mexico. By Arthur Howard Noll. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1903.

Almost coincident with the appearance of the Texas volume in the American Commonwealth Series of Prof. Garrison, of the University of Texas, is the publication of a new volume on Mexico by Mr. Arthur Howard Noll, of the University of the South. Mr. Noll is already favorably known for his "Short History of Mexico"—a new edition of which, with added material, appears at the same time—and for other Mexican and Southwestern sketches and narratives. The present volume bears the title of "From Empire to Republic: The Story of the Struggle for Constitutional Government in Mexico." It is provided with a boundary map of Mexico, 1821-1903, and portraits of Emperor Maximilian, Benito Juarez, and Porfirio Diaz. Best of all there are two appendices, one giving a chronological summary of principal events related to Mexican history (1469-1900), and the other twelve pages of an extensive bibliography pertaining to Mexican history. This last feature, unfortunately lacking in Prof. Garrison's Texas volume which has distinctly broken new ground, would alone be worth the price of the book to the student and to a library.

Mr. Noll has given us not only a valuable but a readable narrative. The style is pleasing, and even amid the revolu-